

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



CITIZEN-GENERATED DATA

Community Voices on Achievement of
Sustainable Development Goals
in Vietnam



LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

25
2025

The report of “**Citizen-generated data – Community voices on Achievement of Sustainable Development Goals in Vietnam**” is conducted to reflect the perspectives of vulnerable groups including Children and Youth, Women, People with Disabilities, LGBTIQ+, ethnic minorities, and social organizations to the levels of achievements of some indicators of SDG goals 1, 4, 5, 8, 13 and 16 in the SDG implementation process in Vietnam in 2022. This data is expected to contribute to monitoring, demand, or drive change on issues affecting citizens or their communities. The data is expected to complement institutional data, not a replacement for it, which can highlight issues that are important to people and feed their views up into higher-level policy debates, or be used to verify official narratives and datasets. In addition, the data generation process also targeted to empower people, giving them a way to engage with political processes that might otherwise seem removed from their lives.



To produce the report, the survey team did collect data from 3,100 samples from grassroots levels including children, youth, women, people with disabilities, LGBTIQ+, and CSOs in the North, the Central and Central Highlands, and the South focusing on their perspectives of SDG improvements in 2022 and their forecast of SDG future progress in 2025. The community scorecards were applied to help citizens to evaluate the improvements and achievements of 69 selected indicators of 6 surveyed SDGs through ratings from 1 – 5, in which 1-2 is the Very Low and Low level of completed; 3 is Average; 4 is Relatively Completed and 5 is Completed. In addition, focused group discussions were also conducted to clarify the data collected and further collect the real “day-to-day” ideas and experiences, and recommendations from different groups.

This report presents key findings from a large exercise in generating data from citizens on their perceptions of SDG implementation, successes, and challenges, organised by the LNOB network. This data shows how citizen perceptions offer a different perspective on SDG implementation; how different marginalised segments of society view progress on the SDGs and reports from the grassroots on the key challenges for SDG achievement perceived by these groups. In these ways, the report makes the case for the value of citizen-generated data as an important source of information to complement official data and allow for a fuller picture of national SDG implementation to emerge. The conclusion offers some recommendations for how this resource could be developed more effectively through partnership.

Key findings from the citizen-generated data are as follows:

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There is a significant difference in the achievement of the SDGs from the community's perspective and from the State's official public data in the National Report 2020 – Progress of five-year implementation of sustainable development goals. The targeted groups in communities tend to be less positive on the achievement of all 06 surveyed SDGs than which were reflected in the Government's report. Specifically, the government forecasted that some indicators of SDG 4 and SDG 13 were completed and many important indicators of SDG 1 can be achieved in 2025, while the community thought that those SDGs would only be partially achieved at the above-average level



There are clear differences in the perspectives on SDG improvements and future forecasts of SDG in 2025 among different community groups as well as regions and urban-rural areas. Among those, children and women are the two groups perceiving the highest levels of SDG improvement in 2022, and youth and women are the most positive groups to foresee the achievement of SDGs in 2025. Among regions, the citizens in the North have a more positive view of SDG improvements than in the Central and the South. The overall views of citizens become less positive when comparing responses from urban areas to those from rural remote and mountainous areas.

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To mark the achievement of SDGs from 1 – 5 (when 5 is fully achieved), all targeted groups have similar evaluations about the SDG progress, largely within the above-average levels (marked from 3.3 – 3.49/5). Foreseeing the future in 2025 (in the next 3 years), all targeted groups also agree on the slight improvements from 10% to 12.4%, equivalent to an annual average growth of 0.5 points to 0.62 points. Though this is not especially positive about the future, if the above increase rate can be maintained from 2025 to 2030, all 6 SDGs will be able to reach the level of Relatively Completed or close to Completed.





SDG 1 and SDG 8 are perceived as having the lowest improvement by 2022 but are forecast to get the most improvements in 2025. Clarification from the focus group discussion with those evaluations indicates this is due to the effects of COVID-19 in creating economic downturn and unemployment, but all targeted groups expect a better future in poverty alleviation in 2025 after COVID-19. SDG 4 received the highest perception of improvement in 2022 and also the highest expectation of achievement in 2025.



Through group discussion, with almost all groups, the most important SDGs are SDG 4 (education) and SDG 16 (social justice) which are relating more to citizens' daily lives; while CSOs thought all SDGs are equally important. This reflects the way that each targeted group applied their different perspectives to evaluate the situation. While individuals of each citizen group are more concerned about their daily lives of education, jobs, violence, equality, etc., CSOs with their missions of serving underserved communities with different demands may have a wider view toward sustainable development.



Through group discussion, the major challenges for Vietnam to achieve SDGs are all external factors rather than internal ones. Many external factors were mentioned by the vulnerable targeted groups such as infrastructure, traditional customs, restrictions and policy gaps, the economic downturn or post-COVID-19 pandemic, etc. All informants participating in group discussion reflected that they were confident that all vulnerable communities could still contribute effectively to the SDGs implementation, monitoring, and evaluation process in Vietnam.





Key recommendations:

To the Government:

1. Develop a conducive policy environment is needed to recognize the citizen-generated data as the source of data for SDGs and build a data and skills infrastructure for the effective use of alternative data sources in the longer term. This may include:

- “Citizen data” can be used as a complementary source to close monitoring gaps in the SDG process.
- It can further be used to inform the development of public policies and budgets, making them more inclusive of the needs of marginalised groups.
- It helps to improve the documentation of lived experiences of marginalised people, monitoring the level of recognition and implementation of their rights
- Public service providers can make use of citizen monitoring data as a benchmark to better plan and optimise their services, increasing their accessibility for marginalised communities.
- Local governments can use locally produced “citizen data” as a strategic tool to foster and demonstrate accountability towards their constituencies.
- The direct involvement of citizens in the SDG process is an expression of good governance and participatory decision-making.
- One of the key ambitions of the SDGs is to support the ‘furthest behind’. A direct involvement of marginalised groups in the SDG process is a big step ahead toward the realisation of this goal, and a strong sign of counteracting discrimination and exclusion in society.

2. Creating an enabling legal environment is necessary to provide CSOs with a basis for safe and sustainable data collaboration with the government. CSOs need a framework to operate safely and effectively in a country. This should include support for training and capacity-building measures as well as funding addressing local civil society. In addition, the government should provide an inviting space for interface dialogue with civil society which means providing a safe space also for marginalized communities to raise their voice and contribute to the development of action plans and solutions in public development.

3. Develop a database of citizen-generated voices on SDGs to be included in the data system for SDGs: Proactively, toward developing an independent method, the key processes to create citizen generated database are: (1) Developing a set of manuals for data collecting and reporting; (2) Conducting capacity building for implementation partners; (3) Collecting data from the community’s voice; (4) Forming the database and integrate with the systems of GSO; (5) Promoting for the enrichment and sharing the database to national level.

To CSOs and LNOB:

1. Improve capacity in citizen-generated data. LNOB should develop the CDG handbook or toolkits in cooperation with GSOs and related government agencies to guide and build capacity buildings for different players using or mainstreaming CGD in the data collection process.

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2. Create a partnership for data collection.



3. Continue to advocate for the recognition of CDG in different levels of local communities, national and international levels.

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